

U.S. Application No. 10/018,620
AMENDMENT C

Attorney Docket No.: 3648.030

IN THE CLAIMS

The claims in the listing will replace all prior claims in the application.

1- 26 (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck with a game platform, a goal with targets, target identifiers and a computer, wherein the device comprising; a computer controlled puck circulation is closed with a puck magazine (30), a passing unit (46) which passes pucks (1) to a player (40), a conveyor apparatus (2) which sorts and conveys shot pucks (1) into the a puck magazine (30), and wherein with the help use of a light barrier A (48) and a light barrier B (49), a camera (50) and a corresponding part of and a computer program, shots made by the player (40) are evaluated by assigning points and assigned a point value and these points the point value can be entered into an international data network to be party to form the basis for a competitive play which can be played over the international data network.

28. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27, wherein the puck magazine (30) is made essentially of an outer tube (31) and an inner tube (32) and a helical ramp (33) between the outer tube (31) and the inner tube (32), whereby the helical ramp (33) is only wide enough that the pucks (1) must be aligned in a row behind one another and that the slope and surface of the helical ramp (33) are

U.S. Application No. 10/018,620
AMENDMENT C

Attorney Docket No.: 3648.030

constructed such that the pucks advance automatically under the influence of gravity.

29. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27, wherein 28, further including a computer controlled puck dispenser (35) located above the level of the a game platform (10) releases pucks (1) which are advanced from the magazine by gravity.
30. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27 29, wherein the computer controlled puck dispenser (35) consists essentially of a rotating disk (36) at the periphery of which are located separating rollers (37) which respectively protrude into a puck channel (34) extending past, so that the first separating roller (37) blocks the next closest, advancing puck (1) and releases that puck (1) only after a partial rotation of the rotating disk (36), whereby the second separating roller (37) just extends into the gap between the first and a following puck (1) and again blocks the following puck (1) until its release.
31. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27 30, wherein the passing unit (46) is fed by way of the downwardly inclined puck channel (34) and from the puck magazine (30) and the higher positioned computer controlled puck dispenser (35), so that the released puck (1) enters without further technical cost at a preliminary speed into the passing unit (46) where it is additionally accelerated.
32. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27, wherein the passing unit has accelerator rollers (42),

U.S. Application No. 10/018,620
AMENDMENT C

Attorney Docket No.: 3648.030

~~and the accelerator rollers (42) have a rotation speed of the accelerator rollers (42) of the passing unit (46) that can be adjusted by the user by way of frequency converters.~~

33. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27, wherein ~~the target surfaces on a~~ the target mat (15) are hierarchically divided into partial target surfaces A (22), partial target surfaces B (23) and partial target surfaces C (24).
34. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27 33, wherein the capturing of ~~a~~ hit target surface targets is carried out by way of a camera (50) connected to the parallel port of the computer (60), whereby the image captured at the calculated moment is compared in the computer (60) with an image without puck (1) according to brightness and the position of the hit determined therefrom.
35. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27 32, wherein two inclined collector surfaces (13) extend towards a conveying channel (14), whereby the conveying channel (14) has perpendicular walls and is so narrow that two flatly oriented pucks (1) cannot lie side-by-side.
36. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27 35, wherein a circulating conveyor runs on the base of the conveying channel (14) in order to initially transport the shot and unsorted pucks (1) in this conveying channel (14) to one side.
37. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim

U.S. Application No. 10/018,620
AMENDMENT C

Attorney Docket No.: 3648.030

27 36, wherein the conveyor apparatus consists of a pair of conveyor belts (6) running below the vertical walls of the conveying channel (14) and several drivers (7) connecting the conveying belts (6) at a distance corresponding to the width of the conveying channel (14).

38. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 37, wherein the driver (7) has a rounded recess (26) in conveying direction and with about the curvature of the circumference of a puck (1), with which a puck (1) lying flat is centred in the conveying channel (14), that the driver is only high enough so that it captures only a puck (1) lying flat, that it includes a bevel (27) onto which a lift off tongue (18) can slide, and that it has a cut-out (25) in an upper surface into which the lift off tongue can engage.

39. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27 38, wherein the path of the conveyor at the end of the horizontal conveyor portion (3) is redirected into an upwardly inclined conveyor portion (4) of preferably 45 degrees slope, so that pucks (1) standing upright in a first sorting step roll back onto the horizontal conveyor portion (3) for sorting.

40. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27 39, wherein the inclined conveyor portion (4) merges into a vertical conveyor portion (5) so that in a second sorting step only pucks (1) guided exactly perpendicularly in front of a driver (7) are conveyed, while uncleanly positioned pucks (1) fall back.

U.S. Application No. 10/018,620
AMENDMENT C

Attorney Docket No.: 3648.030

41. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27 40, wherein a knock off member (9) is provided at each side edge of the vertical conveyor portion (5) at a height of about 15 cm above the inclined conveyor portion (4) and at a horizontal spacing which is slightly larger than the diameter of a puck (1), so that in a third sorting step only pucks (1) exactly centred in the recess (26) of the driver (7) remain on the vertical conveyor portion (5), while not centrally lying pucks (1) are knocked off and fall back onto the horizontal conveyor portion (3).
42. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27 41, wherein the conveying channel (14) in the horizontal and the inclined portions widens in conveying direction so that disadvantageously positioned pucks (1) cannot jam.
43. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27 42, wherein between an upper end of the vertical conveyor portion (5) and an upper end of the puck magazine (30) a connecting ramp is provided which in direction of the vertical conveyor portion (5) has a lift-off tongue (18) which respectively engages the cut-out (25) in the top surface of the drivers (7) so that it reaches under and takes over a puck (1) lifted up at the vertex of the vertical conveyor portion (5) and guides the puck (1) onto a ramp downwardly inclined towards the puck magazine (30) where the puck (1) by gravity enters the helical ramp (33) of the puck magazine (30).
44. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim

U.S. Application No. 10/018,620
AMENDMENT C

Attorney Docket No.: 3648.030

~~27 29~~, wherein a control console (51) with control keys (52) resting on the platform (10) is preferably provided, whereby the control keys (52) can be operated with the hockey stick so that the player (40) can carry out all dialogues with the computer without having to lay down the stick and remove the gloves.

45. (Currently Amended) The device Deviee for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim ~~27 44~~, wherein the control console (51) is movable on the game platform (10) in a direction transverse to the shot path so that it can be moved for ~~righthanders~~ right-handers and lefthanders alike to the side respectively opposite to and at the desired spacing from the player position.
46. (Currently Amended) The device Deviee for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27, wherein the calculation of the point value (76) is based on the factors hit category (71), ~~reaction time, shot speed,~~ passing interval (72), and passing speed (73), ~~reaction time~~ (74) and trajectory time (75) ~~whereby the individual factors are realistically weighted.~~
47. (Currently Amended) The device Deviee for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim ~~27 46~~, wherein the point value for a shot is graphically illustrated on a monitor (65) in that the height of a bar (66) corresponds to the number of points and the colour of the ~~column~~ bar (66) corresponds to the target category hit.
48. (Cancelled)
49. (Currently Amended) The device Deviee for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim ~~27 47~~, wherein the calculation of a series result (77) achieved on such ~~an~~ a Device is carried out as the average

U.S. Application No. 10/018,620
AMENDMENT C

Attorney Docket No.: 3648.030

shot point values (76) out of a selected number of shots,
preferably 16 shots.

50. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27 49, wherein the calculation of a daily result (78) achieved on such an a Device is based on the average of at least two, preferably three best series results (77).
51. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27 50, wherein the calculation of an annual result (79) achieved on such an a Device is based on the average of at least two, preferably three best daily results (78).
52. (Currently Amended) The device Device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 27 51, wherein with the help use of the international data network a worldwide valid ranking list position (80) is derived from the respective annual result (79) and the ranking list (81) is continuously updated, whereby the data structure is designed such that statistics corresponding to different inquiry criteria, for example selected from the group of inquiry criteria such as, age group, players of a team, players within a city, a country, can be output to anyone at any time and at any location.
53. (New) A device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck with a game platform, a goal with targets, target identifiers and a computer, the device comprising; a computer controlled puck circulation is closed with a puck magazine (30), a passing unit (46) which passes pucks (1) to a player (40), a conveyor apparatus (2) which sorts and conveys shot pucks (1) into a puck magazine (30), and wherein with the use of a light barrier A (48) and a

U.S. Application No. 10/018,620
AMENDMENT C

Attorney Docket No.: 3648.030

light barrier B (49), a camera (50) and a computer program, shots made by the player (40) are evaluated and assigned a point value and the point value can be entered into an international data network to be party to competitive play; and

the puck magazine (30) is made essentially of an outer tube (31) and an inner tube (32) and a helical ramp (33) between the outer tube (31) and the inner tube (32), whereby the helical ramp (33) is only wide enough that the pucks (1) must be aligned in a row behind one another and that the slope and surface of the helical ramp (33) are constructed such that the pucks advance automatically under the influence of gravity.

54. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 53, further including a computer controlled puck dispenser (35) located above the level of a game platform (10) releases pucks (1) which are advanced from the magazine by gravity.
55. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 54, wherein the computer controlled puck dispenser (35) consists essentially of a rotating disk (36) at the periphery of which are located separating rollers (37) which respectively protrude into a puck channel (34) extending past, so that the first separating roller (37) blocks the next closest, advancing puck (1) and releases that puck (1) only after a partial rotation of the rotating disk (36), whereby the second separating roller (37) just extends into the gap between the first and a following puck (1) and again blocks the following puck (1) until its release.

U.S. Application No. 10/018,620
AMENDMENT C

Attorney Docket No.: 3648.030

56. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 55, wherein the passing unit (46) is fed by way of the downwardly inclined puck channel (34) and from the puck magazine (30) and the higher positioned computer controlled puck dispenser (35), so that the released puck (1) enters without further technical cost at a preliminary speed into the passing unit (46) where it is additionally accelerated.
57. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 53, wherein the passing unit has accelerator rollers (42), and the accelerator rollers (42) have a rotation speed that can be adjusted by the user by way of frequency converters.
58. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 53, wherein target surfaces on a target mat (15) are hierarchically divided into partial target surfaces A (22), partial target surfaces B (23) and partial target surfaces C (24).
59. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 58, wherein the capturing of a hit target surface is carried out by way of a camera (50) connected to the parallel port of the computer (60), whereby the image captured at the calculated moment is compared in the computer (60) with an image without puck (1) according to brightness and the position of the hit determined therefrom.
60. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 57, wherein two inclined collector surfaces (13) extend towards a conveying channel (14), whereby the conveying channel (14) has

U.S. Application No. 10/018,620

AMENDMENT C

Attorney Docket No.: 3648.030

perpendicular walls and is so narrow that two flatly oriented pucks (1) cannot lie side-by-side.

61. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 60, wherein a circulating conveyor runs on the base of the conveying channel (14) in order to initially transport the shot and unsorted pucks (1) in this conveying channel (14) to one side.
62. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 61, wherein the conveyor apparatus consists of a pair of conveyor belts (6) running below the vertical walls of the conveying channel (14) and several drivers (7) connecting the conveying belts (6) at a distance corresponding to the width of the conveying channel (14).
63. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 62, wherein the driver (7) has a rounded recess (26) in conveying direction and with about the curvature of the circumference of a puck (1), with which a puck (1) lying flat is centred in the conveying channel (14), that the driver is only high enough so that it captures only a puck (1) lying flat, that it includes a bevel (27) onto which a lift off tongue (18) can slide, and that it has a cut-out (25) in an upper surface into which the lift off tongue can engage.
64. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 63, wherein the path of the conveyor at the end of the horizontal conveyor portion (3) is redirected into an upwardly inclined conveyor portion (4) of preferably 45 degrees slope, so that pucks

U.S. Application No. 10/018,620
AMENDMENT C

Attorney Docket No.: 3648.030

(1) standing upright in a first sorting step roll back onto the horizontal conveyor portion (3) for sorting.

65. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 64, wherein the inclined conveyor portion (4) merges into a vertical conveyor portion (5) so that in a second sorting step only pucks (1) guided exactly perpendicularly in front of a driver (7) are conveyed, while uncleanly positioned pucks (1) fall back.

66. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 65, wherein a knock off member (9) is provided at each side edge of the vertical conveyor portion (5) at a height of about 15 cm above the inclined conveyor portion (4) and at a horizontal spacing which is slightly larger than the diameter of a puck (1), so that in a third sorting step only pucks (1) exactly centred in the recess (26) of the driver (7) remain on the vertical conveyor portion (5), while not centrally lying pucks (1) are knocked off and fall back onto the horizontal conveyor portion (3).

67. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 66, wherein the conveying channel (14) in the horizontal and the inclined portions widens in conveying direction so that disadvantageously positioned pucks (1) cannot jam.

68. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 67, wherein between an upper end of the vertical conveyor portion (5) and an upper end of the puck magazine (30) a connecting ramp is provided which in direction of the vertical conveyor portion (5) has a lift-off tongue (18) which respectively engages

U.S. Application No. 10/018,620

AMENDMENT C

Attorney Docket No.: 3648.030

the cut-out (25) in the top surface of the drivers (7) so that it reaches under and takes over a puck (1) lifted up at the vertex of the vertical conveyor portion (5) and guides the puck (1) onto a ramp downwardly inclined towards the puck magazine (30) where the puck (1) by gravity enters the helical ramp (33) of the puck magazine (30).

69. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 54, wherein a control console (51) with control keys (52) resting on the platform (10) is preferably provided, whereby the control keys (52) can be operated with the hockey stick so that the player (40) can carry out all dialogues with the computer without having to lay down the stick and remove the gloves.
70. (New) The device for competitive play with ice hockey stick and ice hockey puck according to claim 69, wherein the control console (51) is movable on the game platform (10) in a direction transverse to the shot path so that it can be moved for right-handers and lefthanders alike to the side respectively opposite to and at the desired spacing from the player position.